

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 15 November 1990

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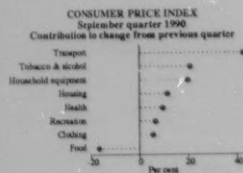
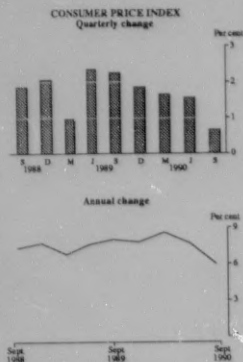
CPI very low increase despite petrol price rises

The September quarter Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.7 per cent over the June quarter 1990 and by 6.0 per cent over the September quarter last year. Both rates of increase are significantly less than those recorded in the June quarter (1.6% higher than the March quarter and 7.7% higher than the June quarter last year).

The more moderate September quarter outcome was the result of offsetting influences. Petrol prices showed the most significant increase (up 5.3%). Significant offsets included fresh vegetable prices (down 22.2% following an increase of 23.9% last quarter) and motor vehicle prices (down 1.7%).

The considerably lower rate of increase in housing costs of 0.6 per cent this quarter (compared with 1.6% in the June quarter) had a further moderating influence. The small increase in those costs this quarter was due to a fall in mortgage interest charges (down 0.3%) reflecting further moderation in the rate of increase in the value of debt outstanding and a fall in interest rates of 2.6 per cent.

The four groups which had the most significant influence on the change in the all groups index were transportation (42.7% of the change this quarter), tobacco and alcohol (20.9%), household equipment and operation (19.8%) and food (-17.0%) (see graph at left).



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1990
Weighted average of eight capital cities

	Percentage change	
	Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Food	-0.7	2.6
Clothing	0.7	4.9
Housing	0.6	7.8
Household equipment and operation	0.9	5.7
Transportation	1.9	7.7
Tobacco and alcohol	1.9	8.1
Health and personal care	1.2	7.4
Recreation and education	0.5	6.4
All groups	0.7	6.0
All groups excluding housing	0.8	5.7
All groups excluding food	1.1	6.9

For further information, order the publication Consumer Price Index (6401.0), or contact Maree Roy on (06) 252 6251.

Australia's population could reach 26 million by the year 2031

Australia's population could reach 26 million by the year 2031, according to one of the projections in a major research document released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics last week.

This 9.2 million increase from the 1989 population of 16.8 million is the highest of the projections based on various assumptions of future mortality, fertility and overseas migration. On the lowest assumptions used, the total population in 2031 would be approximately 23.3 million.

At the same time the future population will age progressively. The median age of 31.9 years in 1989 will rise to between 41.5 and 43.5 years in 2031.

Persons aged 65 and over are projected to increase from 1.9 million or 11 per cent of the total population in 1989 to more than 5 million or over 20 per cent of the population in 2031. For persons aged 80 and over the projected rise is from 0.4 million in 1989 to 1.4 million in 2031. This projected growth rate is higher than for any younger age category.

Meanwhile, the dependency ratio — a measure of the average number of dependents, or persons aged 0-14 and 65 and over per 100 people of working age (15 to 64 years) — is projected to decline from 49.5 in 1989 to between 45.8 and 47.4 in 2011. From then on it will rise to between 57.9 and 59.6 in 2031. By 2031 the number of elderly dependents will exceed child dependents, irrespective of the projection used.

The annual growth rates of the projected population, with overseas migration, lie between 1.2 and 1.4 per cent during 1989-2001, declining to between 0.6 and 0.9 per cent during 2011-2021, and between 0.4 and 0.7 per cent during 2021-2031.

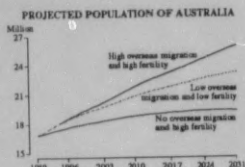
PROJECTED POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA: ANNUAL GROWTH RATES
Per cent

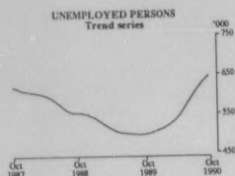
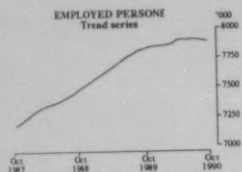
Period	High fertility High overseas migration	Low fertility Low overseas migration	High fertility No overseas migration
1989-2001	1.4	1.2	0.7
2001-2011	1.1	0.8	0.4
2011-2021	0.9	0.6	0.2
2021-2031	0.7	0.4	0.02

Projected populations for Western Australia, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory grow at a higher rate than that for the total Australian population. Lower population growth rates are projected for New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

Without overseas migration, Australia's population would peak at 19.3 million in 2027 assuming high fertility and at 18.8 million in 2022 assuming low fertility. After reaching its highest level in these two respective years, the population would begin to marginally decline without overseas migration.

For further information, order the publication *Projections of the Populations of Australia, States and Territories (3222.0)*, or contact Abbas Adam on (06) 252 6022.





Full-time employment falling

The number of people in full-time jobs fell for the third month in a row in October 1990, and an increase in part-time employment was not enough to prevent another reduction in total numbers employed. Unemployment rose again in the month, with the labour force participation rate steady.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,868,600 in October 1990, a fall of 10,300 since September 1990. Male full-time employment fell by 21,500 to 4,235,100, while male part-time employment rose by 12,000 to 380,100. Female full-time employment fell by 25,600 to 1,943,600, while female part-time employment rose by 24,900 to 1,309,800.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons rose in October to 650,000, the highest level since March 1987. The main component of this increase was a rise of 14,100 in males seeking full-time work. Male unemployment rose in total by 12,100 to 375,900. Female unemployment rose slightly to 274,200.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.6 per cent in October, compared with 7.4 per cent in September. The unemployment rate for males rose by 0.2 percentage points to 7.5 per cent and for females it rose by 0.1 percentage points to 7.8 per cent. The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate was steady at 63.9 per cent in October.

LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate — per cent —	Partici- pation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total — '000 —			
1990 —						
August	6,232.4	1,660.7	7,893.1	619.7	7.3	64.0
September	6,225.8	1,653.0	7,878.9	633.6	7.4	63.9
October	6,178.7	1,689.9	7,868.6	650.0	7.6	63.9

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary* (6202.0), or contact Don Clark (06) 252 6525.

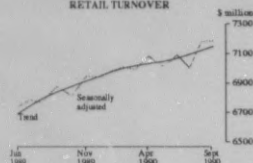
Retail trade — growth still weak

Australian retail trade is still going through a period of weak growth. At current prices trend estimates of turnover from September 1989 through to September 1990 have an average growth of 0.4 per cent per month. This has also been the pattern over the three months to September 1990.

The September retail turnover figures show a mixed performance for retail industries. Whilst three of the four major industries are now showing moderate growth rates (see table next page) compared with two a month earlier, only grocers (the largest industry) has maintained moderate growth levels over the past year. The current price trend is declining for six other industries including the relatively large groups of electrical goods stores, other food stores, and domestic hardware stores and jewellers.

Continued ...

RETAIL TURNOVER



New South Wales' current growth rate of 0.5 per cent per month over the three months to September maintains that State's annual average. Victorian retail trade is still in decline, but the most recent results indicate some improvement over early 1990.

RETAIL TURNOVER

	Original value in September 1990 \$ million	Percentage change in trend estimates	
		Average monthly increase for 3 months to September 1990	September 1990 over September 1989
Grocers etc	1,943	0.6	7.5
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	938	0.6	4.3
Department and general stores	737	0.6	3.1
Clothing and fabrics stores	490	0.1	1.5
All retailers	6,792	0.4	4.5

The ABS publication *Retail Trade, Australia* provides a large range of detail covering State and industry retail statistics and includes time series data in each monthly release to assist users in identifying trends.

For further information, order the publication *Retail Trade, Australia* (8501.0), or contact Maurie Low on (06) 252 7442.

In brief ...

Extracts from recent releases.

❑ Exports and imports

Exports for August 1990 were \$4,329 million, an increase of \$261 million compared with July 1990. Imports for September 1990 fell by \$301 million to \$3,899 million, a decrease of 7 per cent compared with August 1990.

Source: *Exports, Australia, Monthly Summary Tables, August 1990* (5432.0) and *Imports, Australia, Monthly Summary Tables, September 1990* (5433.0).

❑ Cash management trusts

The weighted average net yield of cash management trusts continued its downward trend to reach 13.11 per cent for September 1990, the lowest average net yield since the November 1988 yield of 12.61 per cent. The average term to maturity was 51.6 days in September 1990 compared to 49.0 days in August 1990.

Source: *Cash Management Trusts, Australia, September 1990* (5635.0).

❑ Education expenditure

Commonwealth government total outlays on education increased from \$5,333 million to \$5,838 million between 1986-87 and 1987-88, but fell as a percentage of GDP from 2.03 per cent to 1.97 per cent.

Source: *Expenditure on Education, Australia, 1987-88* (5510.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
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To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Statistics Weekly
15 November 1990

All the week's releases: 7 to 13 November

General

Publications Issued in October 1990 (1102.0; \$5.00)
Statistics Weekly, 8 November 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Economic Indicators, Vic., October 1990 (1307.2; \$5.00)

Demography

Projections of the Populations of Australia, States and Territories, 1989 to 2031 (3222.0; \$25.00)
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., June Qtr 1990 (3402.0; \$11.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Imports, Australia, Monthly Summary Tables, September 1990 (5433.0; \$8.00)
Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, June Quarter 1990 Survey (5626.0; \$8.50)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., October 1990, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.50)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, October 1990 (6271.0; \$60.00)
Consumer Price Index, September Qtr 1990 (6401.0; \$10.00)
The Labour Force, Vic., August 1990 (6202.2; \$12.50)

Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, September 1990 (7204.3; \$3.30)

Secondary industry and distribution

Production of Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, Aust., August 1990 (8357.0; \$5.50)
Production of Clothing and Footwear, Aust., August 1990 (8358.0; \$8.50)
Production of Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, Aust., August 1990 (8360.0; \$8.50)
Production of Paper, Plastics, Paints, Industrial Chemicals and Detergents, Aust., August 1990 (8362.0; \$5.50)
Retail Trade, Aust., September 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, September 1990 (8504.0; \$5.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, August 1990 (8741.3; \$5.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, August 1990, Preliminary (8740.4; \$3.30)
Building Approvals, Tas., September 1990 (8731.6; \$7.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., August 1990 (8741.6; \$3.30)

Transport

Road Traffic Accidents, Qld, 1989 (9406.3; \$12.50)

Calendar of key releases

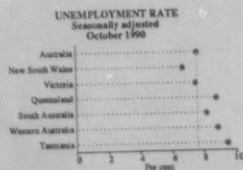
Expected releases over the fortnight to 27 November 1990

November

- 14** Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, August 1990, Preliminary (6301.0; \$3.50)
- 15** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, September 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)
- 22** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, September Quarter 1990 Survey, Preliminary (5625.0; \$3.50)
- 26** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, October 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)
- 27** Export Price Index, Australia, September 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
13 November 1990



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (March qtr 90)*	10.1	-13.5	5.6	17.7	-5.3	-35.2	n.a.	n.a.	-2.4
Retail turnover (September 90) (trend estimate)	6.5	-0.1	4.4	5.7	3.8	8.0	n.a.	10.4	4.5
New motor vehicle registrations (September 90)†	1.6	-25.6	16.5	-0.5	-8.1	14.1	-5.5	-33.7	-6.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals (September 90)	-15.7	-28.8	-10.9	0.3	-20.1	-7.0	63.5	-32.4	-16.5
Value of total building work done (June qtr 90)	2.0	-5.4	-26.3	4.0	-15.9	-15.5	-6.0	-7.7	-7.5
Employed persons (October 90)*	0.3	-0.2	2.0	2.0	0.7	1.1	-0.3	3.3	0.7
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 90)	5.8	6.4	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.0
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 90)	7.3	7.1	5.6	6.9	4.6	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.6
Population (March 90)	0.8	1.3	2.8	1.0	2.6	1.0	-0.1	2.0	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (March qtr 90)	3.7	1.1	3.8	6.9	-1.3	2.3	-1.2	-7.0	2.6

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

Key national indicators - consolidated to 13 November 1990

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m June qtr 90	91,183	93,879	0.4	5.6
	— 1984-85 prices		62,511	64,562	-0.9	1.0
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m June qtr 90	7,379	7,037	-3.3	-8.8
	— 1984-85 prices		5,599	5,333	-2.4	-12.1
Expected new capital expenditure		Six months to Dec. 90	14,807	n.a.	n.a.	-1.6
Retail turnover	— current prices	September 90	6,792	7,185	0.1	4.4
	— 1984-85 prices	June qtr 90	14,300	14,796	-0.3	1.4
New motor vehicle registrations (f)		September 90	50,018	50,872	8.6	-6.3
Dwelling unit approvals		September 90	10,354	10,527	-3.7	-15.6
Value of all building approvals			1,822	1,951	6.0	-18.4
Value of total building work done		June qtr 90	7,064	7,077	-6.9	-7.5
	— current prices		4,484	4,493	-7.6	-12.8
	— 1984-85 prices		35,329	35,201	-3.0	2.3
Manufacturers' sales		June qtr 90				
Expected manufacturers' sales		Six months to Dec. 90	75,399	n.a.	n.a.	4.6
Labour						
Employed persons	'000	October 90	7,870.5	7,868.6	-0.1	0.7
Unemployment rate †	%		7.2	7.6	0.2	1.7
Participation rate †	%		63.6	63.9	0.0	0.5
Job vacancies	'000	August 90	48.1	49.6	-1.3	-25.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours		1.2	1.3	-6.5	-17.6
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 90	208.9	n.a.	0.7	6.0
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	August 90	122.4	n.a.	5.2	2.7
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	August 90	109.6	n.a.	0.9	5.0
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 90	3,356	3,634	-10.9	-25.3
Average weekly earnings (full-time adults; ordinary time) (e)	\$	May 90	534.10	n.a.	1.8	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	September 90	13.55	n.a.	-0.20	-4.8
10-year Treasury bonds †			13.65	n.a.	0.15	0.0
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	September 90	3,879	4,043	-1.5	-0.2
Imports of merchandise			3,809	4,067	2.6	10.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)			70	-24	66.2	95.3
Balance of goods and services (c)			-336	-295	39.0	66.4
Balance on current account (c)			-1,512	-1,549	2.0	23.8
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 90	n.a.	104.9	1.7	-4.3
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 June 90	122,770	n.a.	-2.0	11.7
Net foreign liabilities			160,315	n.a.	-1.3	10.4
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
\$US	per \$A	September 90	0.8249	n.a.	2.0	6.8
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		61.6	n.a.	0.3	1.7
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 90	17.0	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitors	'000	June 90	157	201	5.6	11.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 14 November 1990. (f) Later figures released Thursday, 15 November 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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